

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

All of claims 1, 3-13, 15-21, and 23-41 were previously allowed by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 4, 13, 21, 29, 38 and 40 have been amended herein. Claims 2, 3, 11, 19, 22 and 27 were canceled, either previously or in this submission, without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 42-44 are now presented for consideration by the Examiner. No new matter has been introduced, and thus, entry and consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Remarks Regarding Claim Amendments

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the previously allowed pending claim set in view of the amendments and corresponding remarks presented herein. Applicants assert that the amendments presented herein do not introduce new subject matter into the claims, nor any limitation that was not already considered by the Examiner in the previously pending independent or dependent claims, and thus, the pending claims, as amended, are still allowable.

With this submission, claim 13 has been slightly amended to further clarify the claimed embodiment of the present invention. The language of claim 1 was amended, at least in part, to bring it more into accordance with amended claim 13. In addition, all of the pending independent claims 1, 13, 21, 29, 38 and 40 have been amended to more clearly distinguish the activities of polling devices from the activities of polled devices. Amendments to other claims that were not specifically addressed above were necessitated by amended independent claims.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1, 13, 21, 29, 38 and 40 continue to be distinguishable from the references that were previously cited by the Examiner, taken alone or in combination, and thus, request allowance of the application.

III. New Claims

No new matter has been introduced. Claim 42 is directed to a computer program product that is substantially similar to the method of claim 1. Claims 43-44 are directed to a computer program product and apparatus that are substantially similar to the method of claim 29. Applicants therefore assert that claims 42-44 are distinguishable from references previously cited by the Examiner, taken alone or in combination, based at least on the above remarks.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for the consideration of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-4827, Order No. 4208-4131US1.

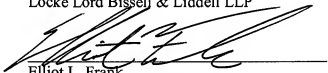
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-4827, Order No. 4208-4131US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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